Hood to award Weisberg couple honorary degrees

Hood College will begin its 101st academic year Aug. 22, awarding honorary degrees to Lillian and Harold Weisberg of Frederick, and honoring students who achieved academic honors this past year.

Hood President Martha E. Church will welcome 300 new freshmen and transfer students to the college, with classes set to begin Aug. 30 for both undergraduates and graduate students. Total enrollment at Hood is about 2,000, with approximately 1,100 undergraduates and 900 graduate students.

"While one of the features of convocation is to recognize outstanding students, it also provides us the opportunity to honor two dedicated researchers, Lillian and Harold Weisberg of Frederick," said Dr. Church, explaining that Mr. Weisberg has donated a collection of more than 300,000 pages of government documents and his research papers relating to the John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King assassinations to the college.

Gerald McKnight, professor of history at Hood, will speak on "The Weisbergs: A Partnership in Quest for the Truth." Dr. McKnight often invites Mr. Weisberg to speak to the students enrolled in his course, "The Politics of Assassination." Mr. Weisberg has spent the last 30 years researching the assassinations.

"My work is important if it teaches future generations to pay attention," said Mr. Weisberg.

The Weisbergs are a team. Mr. Weisberg does the research and writes, while Mrs. Weisberg organizes the resource materials and edits and types the manuscripts for publication. She also has indexed his published works.

"What I have done would have been impossible without her," said Mr. Weisberg.

"No one could have duplicated his work, interest, or stamina," she said, "In my mind, it's all his work."

During convocation, both Mr. and Mrs. Weisberg will be awarded honorary doctor of humane letters degrees.

Mr. Weisberg obtained the information in his collection from the FBI, the Department of Justice, the Warren Commission, the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Archives, and other government agencies, using the Freedom of Information Act to amass the documents. The government records fill at least 60 file cabinets. Included in the collection are hundreds of pages of verbatim transcipts from the executive sessions of the Warren Commission.

Mr. Weisberg was born in Philadelphia and was educated in the public schools of Philadelphia and Wilmington. He attended the University of Delaware and worked for the *Wilmington Morning News* and the *Philadelphia Ledger*. He also worked as a Senate committee investigator and served in the U.S. Army during World War II, first in the military police and later as an analyst for the Office of Strategic Services, a forerunner of the CIA.

He is the author of seven books: "Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report," (1965); "Whitewash II: The FBI/Secret Service Coverup" (1966); "Photographic Whitewash" (1967); "Oswald in New Orleans" (1967); "Whitewash IV" (1974); "Post Mortem" (1975); and "Frame-up" (1971), republished in 1993 under the title, "Martin Luther King: The Assassination."

Lillian Stone Weisberg, who grew up in Hyattstown, was educated in Maryland's public schools and was graduated from the Strayer Business College.

Throughout her career she has worked for both private and governmental agencies, including six years on Capitol Hill where she was assistant editor to two Senate committees, Sen. Bertram Wheeler's investigation of the railroad industry and Sen. Gerald Nye's investigation of the munitions industry. She has worked as a tax consultant, and assists senior citizens with their tax work.

Prior to moving to Frederick County in 1967, the Weisbergs owned and operated a chicken farm in Hyattstown. In 1956, Mrs. Weisberg's flair for cooking earned her the title of National Chicken Cooking Champion and she appeared on numerous television and radio programs.